

August 10, 2012

FOR YOUR INTEREST:

### **Emergency Preparedness & Hazmat Response Conference – September 23-27, 2012**

The Emergency Preparedness & Hazmat Response Conference is September 23-27, 2012 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. The conference is sponsored by the City of Baltimore LEPC.

[www.emergencypreparednessconference.org](http://www.emergencypreparednessconference.org) and Conference Hotline : 610-494-8044.

### **The 2012 ERG is now available for downloading on the PHMSA web site.**

Here is the link for your reading pleasure: <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg2012>

The new pdf can be accessed in the right hand menu under "Current ERG (PDF)".

The 2012 data files can be accessed in the right hand menu under "ERG Data Files (XLS)".

### **Unique Job Opportunity with FEMA in FY 2013**

Community Preparedness Digest:

Support FEMA in its Effort to Build a Stronger, More Resilient Nation

Be heard...Email comments or suggestions to us at [citizencorps@dhs.gov](mailto:citizencorps@dhs.gov) <<mailto:citizencorps@dhs.gov>> .

DHS -FEMA Updates

Support FEMA in its Effort to Build a Stronger, More Resilient Nation Are you an employee of a state, local, or tribal government, institution of higher education, or a non-profit organization interested in lending your expertise to the Federal government in 2013 and then returning to your previous position? A temporary assignment has recently become available for individuals interested in working with states and local communities to prepare citizens for natural and man-made disasters. This year, FEMA is launching a national campaign to build and sustain disaster preparedness throughout the country, and is seeking expertise to assist this effort within the FEMA Regions. This posting is being made available through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Mobility Program

<<http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmllhbD0xNjkyNzI1NiZlbWFpbGkPWphcnZlbGEuc3RlcGhlbkBlcGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1qYXJ2ZWxhLnN0ZXBoZW5AZXBhLmdvdiZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGI2YXJpYXRISWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&http://www.opm.gov/programs/ipa/mobility.asp>> , which allows eligible applicants to work for the Federal government for up to one year and then return to their previous positions. Salary is paid to your host agency or organization by the Federal Government.

Responsibilities include supporting drills and exercises that involve the public and non-government organizations, working with States and local communities to update preparedness messaging and communications to the public, helping grassroots preparedness programs to build more resilient communities, and engaging youth-serving, faith-based, private sector, disability advocacy, and other organizations in preparedness activities and programs.

Additional information on the IPA program, including eligibility, can be found here:

<http://www.opm.gov/programs/ipa/mobility.asp>

<<http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmllhbD0xNjkyNzI1NiZlbWFpbGkPWphcnZlbGEuc3RlcGhlbkBlcGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1qYXJ2ZWxhLnN0ZXBoZW5AZXBhLmdvdiZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGI2YXJpYXRISWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&http://www.opm.gov/programs/ipa/mobility.asp>> . Please note that while we are able to pay your salary, you will not be reimbursed for per diem or relocation expenses.

The goal of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act mobility program is to facilitate the movement of employees, for short periods of time, when this movement serves a sound public purpose. Mobility assignments may be used to achieve objectives such as:

- \* Strengthening the management capabilities of Federal agencies, State, local and Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations;
- \* Assisting the transfer and use of new technologies and approaches to solving governmental problems;
- \* Facilitating an effective means of involving state and local officials in developing and implementing Federal policies and programs; and,
- \* Providing program and developmental experience which will enhance the assignee's performance in his or her regular job.



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We are specifically looking for applicants from the following metropolitan area(s):

- \* Boston, MA: [robert.pesapane@fema.gov](mailto:robert.pesapane@fema.gov)
- \* New York, NY: [david.musick@fema.gov](mailto:david.musick@fema.gov)
- \* Philadelphia, PA: [michael.hajdak@fema.gov](mailto:michael.hajdak@fema.gov)
- \* Washington, DC: [dante.randazzo@fema.gov](mailto:dante.randazzo@fema.gov) <<mailto:dante.randazzo@fema.gov>>
- \* Atlanta, GA: [candace.burrell@fema.gov](mailto:candace.burrell@fema.gov)
- \* Chicago, IL: [mary.rhedin@fema.gov](mailto:mary.rhedin@fema.gov)
- \* Kansas City, MO: [thomas.morgan5@fema.gov](mailto:thomas.morgan5@fema.gov)
- \* Denver, CO: [daniel.nyquist@fema.gov](mailto:daniel.nyquist@fema.gov)

If you are eligible and interested in this opportunity, please contact the name associated with the city above. Please submit your resume by August 15th. Due to a high level of interest, we may not be able to reply to all applicants. Selections will be made by September 4, 2012.

Thank you.

Follow us on Twitter

<[http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyNzI1NiZlbWFpbGlkPWphcnZlbGEuc3RlcGhlbkBlcGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1qYXJ2ZWxhLnN0ZXBoZW5AZXBhLmdvdiZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGI2YXJpYXRISWQ9JiYm&&&101&&&http://twitter.com/#!/citizen\\_corps](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwODA2Ljk1ODc0NzEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyNzI1NiZlbWFpbGlkPWphcnZlbGEuc3RlcGhlbkBlcGEuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1qYXJ2ZWxhLnN0ZXBoZW5AZXBhLmdvdiZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGI2YXJpYXRISWQ9JiYm&&&101&&&http://twitter.com/#!/citizen_corps)> for more tips and recommendations! We want to hear your suggestions on how we can improve our communications to you, be sure to email us at [citizencorps@dhs.gov](mailto:citizencorps@dhs.gov) <<mailto:citizencorps@dhs.gov>> .

### News from Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

PHMSA is now on Twitter at PHMSA\_DOT <[https://twitter.com/phmsa\\_dot](https://twitter.com/phmsa_dot)> . Our mission is to protect people and the environment from the risks inherent in the transportation of hazardous materials - by pipeline and other modes of transportation. The bottom line is that the more information people have, the safer they are.

Twitter will help us deliver safety information and updates to more people, but we will need your help. Please consider following PHMSA and sharing our tweets. Remember to @PHMSA\_DOT and/or use #PHMSA when mentioning hazmat and pipeline safety on your accounts!

Please help us spread the word by tweeting the following:

Hazmat & pipeline safety? @PHMSA\_DOT has got you covered.

Did u know that there are 2.6 mill miles of pipeline in USA? Learn more.  
Follow @PHMSA\_DOT.

What pipelines are in your community? Check out @PHMSA\_DOT's state pipeline profiles <http://go.usa.gov/Gxi>

If you have suggestions or comments about PHMSA's Twitter account, please contact Jeannie Layson  
<<mailto:jeannie.layson@dot.gov> <<mailto:jeannie.layson%40dot.gov>> >

Director of Governmental, International & Public Affairs

Timothy P. Butters

Deputy Administrator

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation

### Experts predict Marcellus Shale becoming largest U.S. gas field

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dNwqCbbVbuCedqeYCidmliCicNdCLj?format=standard>>



August 10, 2012

The Marcellus Shale is expected to become the country's most productive natural gas field, though development started only five years ago, according to new data from the federal government and industry experts. The issue is whether the gas from the formation would spur industry growth or be exported, said Jay Apt, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University. The State Journal (Charleston, W.Va.)/The Associated Press

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dNwqCbbVbuCedqfYCidmliCicNdCLj?format=standard>> (8/6)

Refineries to benefit from shale drilling boom, report states

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dNwqCbbVbuCedqfbCidmliCicNIWrw?format=standard>>

The U.S. refining industry is expected to be transformed by the shale drilling boom over the next three years, according to Hart Energy. Refineries that can easily access unconventional oil formations will have the opportunity to improve margins, but facilities without access and that depend on crude imports "will likely succumb to bearish cyclical and secular global refining market forces," Hart Energy said in a report. FuelFix.com

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dNwqCbbVbuCedqfbCidmliCicNIWrw?format=standard>>

## **GRP Development Planning Documents**

Since the Deepwater Horizon spill we have been getting calls from all over the country about creating/improving GRPs. We decided to set up a page at the Ecology site to help others with tools, forms and process hints on how to develop the northwest model of a GRP (could easily be linked to the RRT site). Here is our new page.

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/GRP/Tools\\_Forms.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/GRP/Tools_Forms.html)

We are still developing some of the tools. Let us know if you have any ideas for this, and whether there is interest in having a link at the RRT website as well.

## **Terror drill in Philadelphia all-too-real**

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505263\\_162-57460369/terror-drill-in-philadelphia](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505263_162-57460369/terror-drill-in-philadelphia)

## **EPA modified the EPCRA Section 312 Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms (Tier I and Tier II) Forms**

The following is an update from EPA's Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP & Oil Information Center:

On July 13, 2012, EPA modified the EPCRA Section 312 Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms (Tier I and Tier II) to add new mandatory and optional data elements under the facility identification and contact information sections of both forms. EPA also revised some existing data elements on the chemical reporting section of the forms to make reporting easier for facilities and make the forms more user-friendly for state and local officials.

In the final rule, EPA added the following new mandatory data elements to the Tier I and II forms: the facility's latitude and longitude; identification numbers assigned under the TRI program and risk management program; whether the facility is manned or unmanned; the maximum number of occupants present at the facility at any one time; whether the facility is subject to EPCRA Section 302 and the Clean Air Act Section 112(r) risk management program; contact information for the individual responsible for completing the forms; emergency coordinator contact information for facilities subject to EPCRA Section 302; and e-mail addresses for the owner or operator and emergency contact. The rule also revised the range codes on the forms for the maximum amount and the average daily amount of the hazardous chemical at the facility and added optional data elements for the facility phone number and parent company contact information.

In the rule, EPA also made revisions specific to the Tier II form. Separate data fields were added for reporting pure chemical and mixtures; facilities must provide a description for storage types and conditions rather than reporting codes; and the form was revised to allow facilities to report any additional state or local reporting requirements or to voluntarily report hazardous chemicals below the reporting thresholds.

The final rule becomes effective on January 1, 2014, and facilities must comply with the new requirements on the Tier II inventory form starting reporting year 2013, which is due by March 1, 2014. Additional information, including a copy of the final rule and fact sheet, is available at the following URL:

[www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra)



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For questions regarding the revisions to the forms, please contact the Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP & Oil Information Center at:

(800) 424-9346 -- Toll Free  
(703) 412-9810 -- Metropolitan DC area and international calls  
(800) 553-7672 -- Toll Free TDD  
(703) 412-3323 -- Metropolitan DC area and international TDD

To speak with an Information Specialist, please call between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM (EST), Monday through Thursday. Information Specialists are available between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM (EST) Monday through Friday during May, June, and July.

### **Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition – November 13-15, 2012**

<[http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,31zx,gad6,235c,onm&MLM\\_MID=2490842&MLM\\_UNIQUEID=17c7007cd2](http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,31zx,gad6,235c,onm&MLM_MID=2490842&MLM_UNIQUEID=17c7007cd2)>

Michael R. Bromwich and Mary E. Landry are Scheduled to Speak at the CLEAN GULF Conference!

Register today <<http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,knjf,9131,235c,onm>> with VIP code MEGA to hear these industry leaders and more.

For the past 21 years CLEAN GULF has been the “go-to” conference & exhibition for oil spill prevention & response professionals to gather to network and keep up with best practices all in one place at one time. This year CLEAN GULF will be held in New Orleans, November 13-15, and will focus on preparedness, response and regulatory updates for offshore and inland/nearshore spills or accidents. To expand upon the traditional content, CLEAN GULF 2012 will cover deepwater prevention & preparedness and lessons learned.

Mega Session Just Announced!

Is There Really “One Gulf of Mexico”? Trans-boundary Challenges in Deep-water Safety

11/14/2012 I 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Three nations have active deep-water drilling programs in the Gulf of Mexico. Mexico and the US have mutual assistance agreements and diplomatic protocols for responding to oil spills. The US and Cuba do not have diplomatic relations. Achieving “One Gulf”, a harmonized agenda of safety regulation and spill response capabilities, is the “tri-lateral challenge” of our generation of offshore, deep-water explorers.

Chair: Dr. Lee Hunt, President Emeritus, International Association of Drilling Contractors, President, Lee Hunt LLC

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<[http://www.aimediaserver6.com/power/email/s\\_CG07\\_industry\\_Response-group.png](http://www.aimediaserver6.com/power/email/s_CG07_industry_Response-group.png)>

Securing a Safer Future

Michael R. Bromwich, former Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement, currently Managing Principal of The Bromwich Group

Governmental Coordination of the Gulf of Mexico Spill Response

Ms. Mary E. Landry, Rear Admiral (retired), Director of Incident Management & Preparedness Policy, US Coast Guard

Protected Marine Reserves & Oil Spill Risk in the Gulf of Mexico

Daniel Whittle, Cuba Program Director, Environmental Defense Fund

Transnational Boundary Implications & Complications in Oil Spill Scenarios



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Dr. Richard J. McLaughlin, Endowed Chair for Marine Policy and Law, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

View the complete conference agenda at [www.cleangulf.org/program.php](http://www.cleangulf.org/program.php)  
<[http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,an2m,9xio,235c,onm&MLM\\_MID=2490842&MLM\\_UNIQUEID=17c7007cd2](http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,an2m,9xio,235c,onm&MLM_MID=2490842&MLM_UNIQUEID=17c7007cd2)>

BONUS! With your registration

<<http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,knjf,9l3l,235c,onm>> you will have access to the Deepwater Prevention & Response conference sessions PLUS access to the exhibit halls for ChemInnovations

<<http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,lymb,6d1b,235c,onm>> ,  
INDUSTRIAL FIRE, SAFETY & SECURITY

<<http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,322r,7idz,235c,onm>> and Shale  
EnviroSafe <<http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,j0ae,7s5n,235c,onm>> .

Be among the first to register to ensure you won't miss out on anything CLEAN GULF has to offer! Don't forget to use VIP code MEGA.

<<http://email.poweronlineproducts.com/c.html?ufl=1&rtr=on&s=ecf0,1hdy2,4tum,knjf,9l3l,235c,onm>>

#### **Some claims against fracking are unfounded, researchers say**

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMrUCbbVbuCeaahPCidmliCicNXogs?format=standard>>

Some claims from opponents of hydraulic fracturing are unfounded, researchers said. There is no data to support claims that fracking led to a rise in breast cancer rates in an area in Texas where heavy drilling occurred, and groundwater pollution concerns aren't supported by monitoring data. "The debate is becoming very emotional. And basically not using science" on either side, said Duke University professor Avner Vengosh. Google/The Associated Press

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMrUCbbVbuCeaahPCidmliCicNXogs?format=standard>> (7/22)

#### **U.S. Chamber kicks off oil, gas drilling campaign**

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMoFCbbVbuCdAUjQCidmliCicNqdqr?format=standard>>

A campaign launched in Ohio by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce seeks to highlight the role of oil and natural gas drilling in stimulating economic growth. "Our campaign is focused on advocacy and education," said Christopher Guith, vice president of policy at the chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy. The campaign will also show how the state's manufacturing industry would benefit from shale development. The Blade (Toledo, Ohio)

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMoFCbbVbuCdAUjQCidmliCicNqdqr?format=standard>> (7/22)

#### **Range plans further Utica Shale drilling in Pa. county**

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMoFCbbVbuCdAUjXCidmliCicNaMvV?format=standard>>

Range Resources seeks to drill more Marcellus Shale wells in Crawford County, Pa., after it started work on its Lippert Unit #1H well in June. "We are planning to drill in Greenwood Township," said Mary Patton, regulatory services director for the company's Northern Marcellus Division. The Meadville (Pa.) Tribune

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMoFCbbVbuCdAUjXCidmliCicNaMvV?format=standard>> (7/20)

#### **Obama promotes natural gas production in Ohio campaign stop**

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMaoCbbVbuCdZHaXCidmliCicNMnOd?format=standard>>

The natural gas drilling and production boom should be accepted as a way to strengthen U.S. energy security, President Barack Obama said during a campaign stop in Ohio. "Natural gas actually burns cleaner than some other fossil fuels," Obama said. "So I want to encourage natural gas production. The key is to make sure that we do it safely and in a way that is environmentally sound." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMaoCbbVbuCdZHaXCidmliCicNMnOd?format=standard>>(7/17)

#### **EPA: Tests find water in Pa. town safe despite natural gas drilling**

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMzrCbbVbuCeaGmgCidmliCicNwtoo?format=standard>>

Tests conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency found that drinking water in Dimock, Pa., is safe, despite residents' claims that natural gas drilling in the area has polluted the town's aquifer, the agency said. There is no necessity to provide alternative drinking water sources and no need for further water tests, the EPA said. Such results mean that "we're now able to close this chapter once and for all," said Kathryn Klaber, president and executive director of the Marcellus Shale Coalition. The Washington Post/The Associated Press

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMzrCbbVbuCeaGmgCidmliCicNwtoo?format=standard>> (7/25)



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N.Y. fracking suit can't be filed against EPA, DOJ says

<<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dMzrCbbVbuCeaGmqCidmliCicNoKII?format=standard>>

New York cannot file a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies over the impact of hydraulic fracturing on the state's water supply, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandra Levy. The agencies have no jurisdiction over the Delaware River Basin Commission, which regulates natural gas drilling in the region, Levy told a federal court in Brooklyn. "The federal defendants didn't cause the rules to be proposed and can't stop them from being issued," Levy said. Bloomberg

#### **CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHPR)**

<[http://www.linkedin.com/e/xo42ld-h3hlze0b-4g/vgc/4390536/eml-anet\\_dig-h\\_gn-gl-cn/?hs=false&tok=0OXv4LI7ISJRg1](http://www.linkedin.com/e/xo42ld-h3hlze0b-4g/vgc/4390536/eml-anet_dig-h_gn-gl-cn/?hs=false&tok=0OXv4LI7ISJRg1)>

**CSB - U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD** -- An independent federal agency investigating chemical accidents to protect workers, the public, and the environment<<https://idevmail.americaneagle.com/userfiles/chemsafety/image/template1/prnt-hdr.jpg>>

CSB Investigation: At the Time of 2010 Gulf Blowout, Transocean, BP, Industry Associations, and Government Offshore Regulators Had Not Effectively Learned Critical Lessons from 2005 BP Texas City Refinery Explosion in Implementing Safety Performance Indicators

Investigators Cite Progress Overseas and in U.S. Refining and Chemical Sectors, Conclude Offshore Oil Exploration and Production Safety Will Benefit from Effective Use of Major Accident Indicators

Houston, Texas, July 24, 2012 – In preliminary findings to be released today at a public hearing <<http://idevmail.americaneagle.com/link.aspx?l=1&d=30&mid=368750&m=1008>> in Houston, U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) investigators examining the Deepwater Horizon <<http://idevmail.americaneagle.com/link.aspx?l=2&d=30&mid=368750&m=1008>> explosion in the Gulf report that companies like Transocean and BP, trade associations, and U.S. regulators largely judged the safety of offshore facilities by focusing on personal injury and fatality data (such as dropped objects and slips, trips, and falls), that overshadowed the use of leading indicators more focused on managing the potential for catastrophic accidents.

Expanded use of process safety indicators was first recommended by the CSB in its 2007 report on the March 2005 BP Texas City refinery disaster <<http://idevmail.americaneagle.com/link.aspx?l=3&d=30&mid=368750&m=1008>> . In the offshore arena, potential indicators – such as timely checks on safety critical equipment and response to well control events – would provide an assessment of the health of their safety management systems. These type of indicators may be precursors to the kind of tragedy that took eleven lives on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig following the Macondo well blowout on April 20, 2010.

The preliminary findings were presented during the second day of a two-day hearing called by the CSB to examine the need for the U.S. offshore drilling and production industry – and the agencies that regulate it – to develop process safety indicators that will result in safety improvements and reduce the likelihood of major accidents.

CSB Chairperson Dr. Rafael Moure-Eraso said, “A number of past CSB investigations have found companies focusing on personal injury rates while virtually overlooking looming process safety issues – like the effectiveness of barriers against hazardous releases, automatic shutoff system failures, activation of pressure relief devices, and loss of containment of liquids and gases. Furthermore, we have found failures by companies to implement their own recommendations from previous accidents involving, for example, leaks of flammable materials.”

In its investigation of the Macondo disaster, the CSB found that BP and its contracted drilling rig operator, Transocean, were focused on personal safety issues such as worker injury rates, rather than broader safety issues involving the process of drilling for oil using a complex rig.

Noting the lack of sustained focus on process safety, CSB Investigator Cheryl MacKenzie described an “eerie resemblance” between the 2005 explosion at the BP Texas City refinery and the explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon.



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At the BP Texas City refinery on March 23, 2005, contract workers had just returned to temporary trailers at the plant after attending a celebratory lunch commending an excellent personal injury accident record. Shortly after lunch, an explosion occurred during process startup, killing 15 and injuring 180 others. At Macondo, BP and Transocean officials were in the process of lauding operators and workers for a low rate of personal injuries on the very day of that tragedy. Company VIP's had flown to the rig in part to commend the workforce for zero lost-time incidents.

Investigator MacKenzie said, "The emphasis on personal injury and lost work-time data obscures the bigger picture: that companies need to develop indicators that give them realistic information about their potential for catastrophic accidents. How safety is measured and managed is at the very core of accident prevention. If companies are not measuring safety performance effectively and using those data to continuously improve, they will likely be left in the dark about their safety risks."

At the public hearing the CSB investigation team presented eight conclusions from the investigation to date:

1. Transocean and BP had multiple safety management system deficiencies that contributed to the Macondo incident.
2. Before the Macondo blowout, the safety approaches and metrics used by the two companies and U.S. trade associations did not adequately focus on major accident hazards. Recently BP officials informed CSB investigators that they are working to develop a more comprehensive offshore indicators program using leading and lagging metrics to help drive performance improvements.
3. Systems used for measuring safety effectiveness in the offshore industry focused on personal safety and infrequent lagging indicators.
4. The U.S. offshore regulator, the Department of the Interior, can achieve a greater impact on major accident prevention through the development of a leading and lagging process safety indicator program.
5. Despite some significant progress with process safety indicator implementation in the downstream oil industry, in the offshore sector BP, Transocean, industry associations, and the regulator had not effectively learned critical lessons of Texas City and other serious process incidents at the time of the Macondo blowout.
6. Companies and trade associations operating in other regulatory regimes outside the U.S. have developed effective indicator programs, recognizing the value of leading indicators, and using those indicators to drive continuous improvement.
7. Trade associations and many of the same companies that operate in the U.S. are partnering with the regulators in other countries in advancing safety indicators programs.
8. In the aftermath of the Macondo blowout, companies and trade associations in the U.S. are initiating efforts to advance the development of offshore major accident indicators.

The CSB investigative team further presented a number of preliminary findings of management system deficiencies underlying the Macondo blowout and explosion. The existence of these deficiencies – at the same time that the relevant companies and the regulator focused on personal safety metrics – underscore the need for more effective process safety indicators, investigators said. These system deficiencies included:

1. BP and Transocean hazard assessment systems were inadequate. For example, the bridging document that sought to harmonize safety controls between BP and Transocean was a minimal document that focused only on six personal safety issues such as minimum heights for employing fall protection equipment. The document did not address major accident hazards like the potential for loss of well control.
2. Hazard assessments of major accident risks on the Deepwater Horizon relied heavily on prompt, correct manual intervention by the rig crew to prevent a catastrophe, for example to divert the flow of flammable hydrocarbons away from the rig during a blowout. Depending on a human reaction alone during an emergency situation – with many distractions – is not a reliable safety layer. A comprehensive hazard assessment should have identified this risk.
3. There were no written procedures for how to conduct the key "negative pressure test" which was conducted on the day of the incident and was necessary to confirm the integrity of the cement seal on the well. There were also no written criteria or safe limits defined for determining if the test was a success.



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4. Systems for managing the safety of process changes were inadequate. The plan to complete and “temporarily abandon” the Macondo drilling operation was changed five times during the week before the disaster, but there is no available documentation that management of change procedures or formal hazard assessments were conducted.

5. Systems for investigating safety incidents and implementing and disseminating the findings were inadequate. Prior to the Macondo disaster in December 2009, Transocean operated the Sedco 711 drilling rig in the North Sea (BP was not involved). In an incident similar to Macondo, the Transocean crew had a delayed response to indications that hydrocarbons were flowing into the well. Mud and hydrocarbons eventually reached the rig floor at the sea surface, though they did not ignite in this case and the blowout preventer sealed the well. Transocean prepared an “Operations Advisory” discussing the lessons from the Sedco 711 incident, but it was not effectively communicated to employees beyond the North Sea.

6. On the Deepwater Horizon, a little over a month before the Macondo blowout, there was a delay by operators in responding to a “well kick” – an unanticipated, hazardous influx of hydrocarbons into the wellbore that can precede a blowout. BP investigated the incident but after informal verbal discussions with Transocean, evidence indicates that Transocean did not implement changes based on the findings.

A robust system of process safety indicators might have revealed many of these management system deficiencies before the disaster occurred, CSB investigators said. CSB Team Lead Cheryl MacKenzie noted that Transocean primarily measured safety performance through two metrics: total recordable injuries and the “Total Potential Severity Rate.” Although Transocean gave itself a zero score for total recordable injuries following the tragedy, its scoring on the potential severity rate enabled top-level management at Transocean to receive financial bonuses for safety performance. The focus on personal safety was reflected in a 2004 Transocean major accident hazard risk assessment of the Deepwater Horizon. The assessment made 27 recommendations for safety improvements – but almost all addressed personal safety issues and no recommendations addressed major accident risks such as gas entering the riser or well blowouts.

The CSB investigation is also looking at the role U.S. regulators and regulations played in the time preceding to the accident. The CSB found that BP was a finalist for a safety award from the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the former Department of the Interior agency overseeing offshore oil exploration and production, and that a total of 15 safety awards had been given to BP and Transocean over a period of years. The criteria used to determine the award candidates, CSB investigators said, focused on personal safety metrics and did not give an accurate measure of safety management system performance to control major accident hazards.

Following the Macondo blowout, a reorganization within the Interior Department created the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Preliminary CSB findings indicate that some reporting requirements have become mandatory, but the focus remains on reporting major accident events such as fires rather than predictive, leading indicators.

The onshore refining industry, responding to a previous CSB recommendation to the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the United Steelworkers Union, is moving toward the development of key safety performance indicators, the CSB noted.

CSB Chairman Moure-Eraso said, “API has taken a positive step forward in establishing ‘Recommend Practice 754’ on safety performance indicators but I believe that input from all stakeholders is necessary to develop a more robust Recommended Practice. We would like to see API move even further and focus more on leading indicators to proactively measure safety system performance before accidents occur. I believe the offshore drilling industry could benefit from such a program as well. Meantime, it is encouraging to see the industry move in this important direction, which will help prevent accidents and save lives.”

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious chemical accidents. The agency’s board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, [www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov).

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NOTE: Most information has been provided by Debbie Scholz.